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Leptospirosis is a disease caused by infection with *Leptospira* bacteria. These bacteria can be found worldwide in soil and water. There are many strains of *Leptospira* bacteria that can cause disease.

Dogs are most commonly affected. Leptospirosis in cats is rare and appears to be mild although very little is known about the disease in this species.ⁱ

Leptospirosis: Case Definitions

Suspect: One or more of the following symptoms:

- a. Acute febrile illness
- b. Acute or chronic renal failure
- c. Hepatic dysfunction
- d. Uveitis
- e. Pulmonary hemorrhage and/or hemorrhagic manifestations

Probable: Suspect plus:

- a. Response to antimicrobial therapy or
- b. Presumptive laboratory result
- c. IgM positive, single titer by MAT > 1:800

Confirmed: Probable plus:

- a. Confirmed laboratory result
- b. Culture and isolation of *Leptospira*, 4-fold rise in MAT titers between acute and convalescent samples greater than 2 weeks apart
- c. And/or PCR positive blood or urine sample

ⁱ ACVIM: <https://ebusiness.avma.org/EBusiness50/files/productdownloads/Lepto%20Eng.pdf>